

Moran Pushes for Offshore Energy Development

Requests President to Expedite Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran recently sent a letter to President Barack Obama to request that he allow areas in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to remain open for oil and gas development as the new administration reviews the five-year offshore drilling plan.

"Development of our nation's domestic oil and gas resources is crucial to reducing our reliance on foreign oil and to maintaining affordable energy prices in the U.S.," Moran said. "A substantial amount of the oil and gas reserves in the U.S. lie on the OCS and we must begin to develop those resources without delay. Having access to these resources will not only produce affordable American-made energy products, but also provide jobs in a struggling economy."

Moran sent the letter last week to the President, prior to the announcement made this week by Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar that the Obama administration would delay implementation of a rule issued this January that proposed a five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing. The Secretary announced he will implement at least a 180-day delay of the five-year OCS oil and gas development plan. Salazar will also direct his agency to develop an

offshore renewable energy plan to include in the existing five-year oil and gas leasing plan.

“Placing a further 180-day delay on an already long process of oil and gas development will stall America's progress towards energy independence. Development of renewable energy resources is one part of the energy solution, but should not hinder OCS oil and gas development. I appreciate that the administration did not completely stop the development of a leasing plan, but do not agree with the proposed delay. I'm concerned the delay will result in a situation like last summer, when energy prices dramatically increased and domestic resources were inaccessible due to government restrictions. I do not want Congress to become complacent about advancing utilization of our domestic energy sources while the country is now experiencing low energy costs,” Moran said.

Moran believes that the development of renewable energy resources - such as wind energy and solar power - as well as offshore oil and gas development and conservation, are all part of a comprehensive energy solution.

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